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## LONDON.

*Guildhall Meeting,*

FLOWER, MAYOR.

A Common Council, holden in the Chamber of the Guildhall of the City of London, on Tuesday the 1st day of August, 1809,

Resolved. That this Court did, on the 6th day of April last, express its thanks and gratitude to GWYLLIAM LLOYD WARDLE esq. for his conduct in bringing forward and substantiating serious charges against the late Commander in Chief, which, notwithstanding the majority in his favour in the House of Commons, compelled his resignation. That no circumstance has since transpired which can in any manner lessen the importance of that investigation, impeach his motives, or affect the merits of the case. On the contrary, his unwearied exertions, perseverance and fortitude, under unexampled threats and difficulties, have developed a scene of scandalous abuse and corruption, not only in the army, but in various departments of the State.

That it has been discovered by the said investigation, that these abuses have extended, not only to the disposal of Church and East India Patronage, but also to the disposal of Seats in the Legislature, and charges have been brought forward and proofs offered, implicating in such corrupt and illegal traffic Lord Viscount Castlereagh, the Honourable Spencer Perceval and the Honourable Henry Wellesley, all Members of the House, and then and now holding ostensible situations in his Majesty's Government, a traffic which, in the language of the Speaker of the House of Commons "would bring a greater scandal upon the parliament and the Nation than this country has ever known since Parliament has had an existence."

That the said investigation has also led to the discovery that the said Lord Castlereagh, one of his Majesty's Secretaries of State, and late President of the Board of Control, did, in flagrant breach of his duty as a Minister, abuse of his patronage and gross violation of the Constitution, place a writership in the hands of Lord Clancarty, a Member of the same Board, for the purpose of obtaining for him a Seat in Parliament; which fact the said Lord Castlereagh has himself admitted, and notwithstanding there appeared a smaller majority in his favour, than appeared in favour of the Duke of York, in manifest injustice to his Royal Highness, and gross

insult to the Nation, the said Lord Castlereagh still retains his official situation.

That these attacks upon the vital principles of the Constitution have been made without punishment or censure; and motions for inquiry into such practices have been rejected, upon the alleged frequency and notoriety of them; and Parliament has thereby, as well as by passing a Bill to prevent the sale of Seats in that House, recognised and acknowledged the corrupt influence under which it has been called together, and exercised its functions.

That it was stated by Mr. Wardle, that there was an Office publicly kept open for the Sale of places under Government, and although such statement, when made, only excited the derision of Ministers and the House; it has since appeared that the above statement was correct; and his Majesty's Ministers have indicted and convicted several persons concerned therein, and such practices were declared in the said indictment to have a tendency to degrade, vilify and traduce and bring into contempt, the Administration of the Country.

That by various statements which Mr. Wardle has lately submitted to Parliament, it appears, that by a correction of the frauds, abuses, corruption and speculation, which have been found to exist in every branch of the public expenditure to which inquiry has extended, and a wise and honest application of our resources, the people might be relieved from heavy and oppressive burthens, if not wholly from that inquisitorial and most grievous of all imposts, the Tax upon Income. That his conduct on this occasion seems to have drawn upon him, in a high degree, the malice and rancour of those who are interested in the continuance of these abuses.

That in the opinion of this Court, individuals who devote their exertions towards exposing and correcting public abuses, are at all times entitled to the support and protection of the country, particularly at the present moment, when there appears an unabating effort on the part of those notoriously under the influence of Government, or who participate in the existing frauds, corruptions and speculations, to cry down, vilify and traduce every man who has courage and integrity to expose such practices, in order to mislead the public, and divert their attention from these great evils.

WOODTHORPE,